

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 PC-01 A-01 OPR-02

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 /091 W  
----- 120042

R 091442Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4416

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0834

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR LEANING TOWARDS COUP

1. PERONIST LABOR LEADERS ARE TALKING OPENLY WITH EMBOFFS OF THEIR STRONG CONVICTION THAT MILITARY COUP WILL OCCUR IN NEAR FUTURE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOR FIRST TIME THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEE MRS. PERON BE CAST OUT. SEVERAL LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, HAVE BROACHED SUBJECT TO LABATT DURING PAST FEW DAYS. IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSING VIEW THAT COUNTRY HAS REACHED END OF LINE WITH PRESIDENT PERON'S GOVT, THEY HAVE ASKED ABOUT USG REACTION TO MILITARY TAKEOVER. ANOTHER WELL-PLACED LABOR SOURCE EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS, AND QUESTION, TO POLCOUNSELOR. TO ALL SUCH QUESTIONS WE ARE REPLYING THAT FORM OF GOVT IS ENTIRELY ARGENTINE INTERNAL AFFAIR.

2. LABOR SOURCES SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO MOUNT "PHANTOM OPPOSITION," I.E., GENERAL STRIKE CALL WITHOUT OPEN RESISTANCEN, SHOULD MILITARY ACT. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF LABOR LEADERS WOULD THEN AGREE TO COOPERATE WITH MILITARY ON GROUNDS OF NEED TO "PROTECT TRADE UNION INSTITUTION." THEY REALIZE MILITARY WOULD HAVE TO WEED OUT MOST BLATANTLY CORRUPT LEADERS FOLLOWING COUP, BUT FEEL THAT MAJORITY WOULD SURVIVE.

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THEY DO NOT FEEL THAT MILITARY WILL USE BRUTAL REPRESSIVE

MEASURES, AS "ARGENTINES ARE NOT LIKE CHILEANS OR BRAZILIANS."  
SHOULD SUCH REPRESSION OCCUR, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD HAVE NO  
ALTERNATIVE BUT "TO GO UNDERGROUND AND FORM TERRORIST  
OPPOSITION."

3. COMMENT. LABOR DISGUST WITH MRS. PERON APPEARS TO BE  
REACHING POINT OF NO RETURN. ALTHOUGH TUNE COULD EASILY CHANGE  
SHOULD SHE "RESTORE" LABOR'S INFLUENCE, LABOR'S COMMITMENT TO  
GENERAL PERON'S WIDOW IS NOW SO THIN THAT IT WILL BE UNLIKELY  
TO SERVE AS A MAJOR DETERRENT SHOULD MILITARY FEEL THE TIME  
TO ACT HAS ARRIVED.  
HILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARMED FORCES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 09 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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